

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05 CCO-00

SCCT-01 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 AID-05 /093 W

----- 032409

O R 031325Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4604

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHIBI

AEMBASSY ALGIERS 1033

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD UNN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AEMBASSY CAIRO 2932

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6965

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STUTTGART FOR ELG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PGOV, PINT, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: IMPROVED SECURITY SITUATION IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 6917

1. A MUCH MORE RELAXED SECURITY PICTURE PREVAILS IN BEIRUT AND ELSEWHERE IN LEBANON JUNE 3, FOLLOWING NIGHT THAT SAW ONLY TWO BOMB EXPLOSIONS IN CITY (CAUSING ONLY MATERIAL DAMAGE) AND VERY LITTLE FIRING. LEBANESE SECURITY AUTHORITIES HAVE REPORTED THINGS QUIET THROUGHOUT DAY, MOST SHOPS AND BUSINESSES APPEAR OPEN, AND ALL ROADS LEADING INTO TOWN ARE CLEAR.

2. OUTGOING VICE PREMIER, BRIG. MUSA KANAAN, ANNOUNCED JUNE 2 THAT JOINT POLICE-PLO OPERATION TO SET UP BUFFER ZONES IN DEKWANEH-TEL ZAATAR AREA (PARA 3 BEIRUT 6878) HAD BEGUN AND THAT "ARMED ELEMENTS" THERE HAD STARTED TO THIN OUT ON BOTH SIDES. KANAAN SAID SAME PROCEDURE WOULD BE FOLLOWED IN OTHER PARTS OF CITY "UNTIL THERE IS CALM IN ALL AREAS WHICH PARTICIPATED IN THE FIGHTING." HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT ISOLATED INCIDENTS WERE STILL OCCURRING BOTH AS RESULT OF INDIVIDUAL ACTS SPRINGING "FROM FEAR AND NERVOUSNESS" NAD OF OTHER ACTS "CARRIED OUT BY A CERTAIN FACTION WHICH DOES NOT WANT TO SEE CALM RESTORED TO LEBANON". PRESSED TO DISCLOSE IDENTITY OF THIS "FACTION," KANAAN SAID NT HARD TO CONFIRM AT THIS JUNCTURE AND WITHOUT TANGIBLE PROOF THAT A "FOREIGN HAND" IS TRYING FOMENT ADDITIONAL TROUBLE. HOWEVER, HE DISCERNED A "DETERMINED WILL AT WORK" THROUGHOUT RECENT DEVELOPMENTS.

3. KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS ARE DISPLAYING GROWING OPTIMISM THAT PREMIER-DESIGNATE KARAME WILL SUCCEED IN FORMING NEW CABINET, BUT MOST EXPECT THAT THIS PROCESS WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST SEVERAL MORE DAYS. IN MEANTIME, PHALANGISTS AND KAMAL JUMBLATT CONTINUE TO EXCHANGE VERBAL BROADSIDES, WITH FORMER ACCUSING LEFTISTS OF CARRYING OUT "FOREIGN CONSPIRACY" AIMED AT EMBROILING LEBANESE AMONG THEMSELVES AND WITH PALESTINIANS. (PHALANGE TOOK MORE MODERATE TONE VIS-A-VIS FEDAYEEN, HOWEVER, PRAISING "ARAFAT AND PLO LEADERSHIP FOR HAVING "UNDERSTOOD LEBANESE FACTS AND ACTING CONFIDENTIAL

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH JUSTICE AND THEIR CONSCIENCE.") JUMBLATT, FOR HIS PART, ISSUED ANOTHER STATEMENT JUNE 2 IN WHICH HE AGAIN ACCUSED PHALANGE OF BEING PART OF "CIA CONSPIRACY" AGAINST LEBANON AND PROMISED TO MAKE "FACTS" OF THIS SINISTER ALLIANCE PUBLIC IN NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO MAINTAINED HIS POSITION THAT PHALANGISTS BE EXCLUDED FROM KARAME CABINET.
GODLEY

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